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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt

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DATE: 25X1X6

INFO.

SUBJECT (A) Students' High Executive Committee
(B) Wafdist Inst. Reopened Among Students

DIST. 12 December 1946

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN
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A. Students' High Executive Committee

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1. The scheduled reopening of all Egyptian schools on 12 October was postponed until 9 November when the newly reformed Students' High Executive Committee successfully organized a boycott of all classes on the appointed day.
2. The Students' High Executive Committee, which was dissolved at the end of the 1946 academic school year, was reformed and reorganized, thanks to the enterprise of the Wafd and allied opposition elements. When Nahhas Pasha returned to Cairo on 1 October, he urged the governing bodies of the students and the workers to unite and resume their protests. A branch of the Students' High Executive Committee was created expressly for coordinating the boycotting of the British. Its functions are to induce the Egyptian public to boycott everything pertaining to the British, including British goods, shops, and personnel; it will also invite the Egyptians to refuse British trade in Egyptian shops and restaurants, and forbid them from entering trams, busses, and trains.

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Comment: See [redacted] disseminated on 21 November 1946, which deals with the preparations of the Ikhwan al-Muslimin for boycotting British and Jewish goods. See also [redacted] disseminated on 26 November, on the same subject.

3. The Kutlah and Misr al-Fatah were the first to join in this movement. Under the direction of Hafiz Shihah, chief editor of the Wafdist Sawt al-Jama, other political elements gradually brought their contribution to the Committee. Mustafa Munayn was delegated by the Ikhwan as its representative. Group meetings of the Committee took place in October, deciding on an independent program of activities, including the attainment of national aspirations, and recommending reforms in the Ministry of Education policies with respect to destitute students who are required to pay school fees.
4. Today the Students' High Executive Committee has completed its formation with representatives from the Wafd, Kutlah, Misr al-Fatah, Ikhwan, National Party, Gabhat Misr, Shubban al-Muslimin, Rabitat Masriyah, and the Sudanese. Each is represented by two students, except the Wafd and Misr al-Fatah, which have three delegates. It was decided to exclude the labor groups, confining the Committee to students only.

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5. The initial activities of the Committee included an attempt to stage a demonstration on the occasion of Isma'il Sidqi's visit to Tanta on 9 October. Ali al-Zir prepared to follow the Prime Minister to the provincial town with his men, but they were detained by the police in Cairo. A few who reached Tanta were arrested there. Later attempts by the Committee to start disturbances were equally unsuccessful.

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Comment: Ali al-Zir is the owner of al-Qisha, the organ of the Wafdist workers. He is also head of that section of the Wafd which works to incite trouble among the workers.

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B. Wafdist Instigated Disorders Among Students

6. In an effort to check its declining influence, the Wafd is desperately attempting to ally itself with every opposition element to cause difficulties for the government. This policy has found fertile ground for exploitation at Faruq I University where provocations by leftist elements have repeatedly occurred. This institution was officially reopened for the resumption of studies on 1 September 1946, but soon Wafdist intrigues, combined with leftist agitation, disrupted the classes.
7. The conduct of Dr. Abd-al-Kutti al-Khayyal, leftist-inclined former Dean of the Faculty of Law at Faruq I University, had been under scrutiny. Al-Khayyal was finally deprived of his post because of his activities and was demoted to the position of a simple teacher at the Faculty. This incident provided the first excuse for creating disturbances. A student front was organized in support of al-Khayyal in his bid to regain his former post. In the process, recurring disturbances took place throughout September, necessitating the intermittent suspension of the classes and the arrest of several students.
8. The Minister of Education, Hasan al-Ashmawi Pasha, in vain tried to reestablish order, finally removing al-Khayyal to a Cairo university. Thereupon, the students sent threatening letters to al-Ashmawi. Ahmad Lutfi Sa'id, Muqrashi, and Sidqi, requesting the replacement of their Dean, and warning also that, if the negotiations were not disrupted at once, the Ahmad Mahir assassination would be repeated many times. More students were arrested and special precautions were taken.

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Comment: Ahmad Mahir, brother of Ali Mahir, was assassinated on 24 February 1945, during a session in the Chamber of Deputies.

9. When Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id, the new Dean replacing al-Khayyal, assumed his duties, the students requested him to leave the Faculty and resign his post in favor of Dr. al-Khayyal. Al-Sa'id fearfully acceded to their demands. After he left, a notice was posted on the door of the Dean's office advising that "this door will remain locked until our beloved al-Khayyal returns."
10. Al-Ashmawi summoned al-Khayyal and induced him to exhort the students to resume their work with the new Dean. This further infuriated the students who expanded their activities under the direction of the Students' High Executive Committee, by printing and distributing three pamphlets attacking the government and the British, which prompted a British protest. The classes were definitely suspended until further notice.

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11. After abortive attempts to create disorders in August and September of 1946, demonstrations took place by agitating Wafdist Young Men and their sympathizers on 5 October 1946 when they circulated in Cairo streets shouting "Kill Sidqi, the murderer; punish Nuqrashi and Haykal, who are selling us to the British."
12. On 10 October the Wafd helped to organize a strike of transport workers who are controlled by a Communist-inspired labor syndicate. On the appointed day Cairo trams and busses stopped their scheduled runs, paralyzing all movement in the city. The army was mobilized to maintain order. The leaders of the strike movement were summoned to Cairo City Police Headquarters for presentation of their grievances. They met Miralai Ahmad Hamdi Bey and the Governor, Muhammad al-Said Ibrahim Pasha, who placed them all under arrest.
13. Further attempts to demonstrate in October were easily frustrated by the police, indicating a weakened Wafdist opposition.

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Comment: [REDACTED] disseminated on 4 November, deals with the reported decline of the Wafd.

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